

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 04012 01 OF 02 021735Z

40

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 SS-15 L-03 HEW-08 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02

SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 RSR-01

/136 W

----- 121963

P R 021501Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8197

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

DEA HQTS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 4012

NOFORN

JOINT STATE/USAID/DEA MESSAGE

BUENOS AIRES FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJECT: MONTHLY NARCOTICS REPORT: ECUADOR, JULY 1973

I. GENERAL

A. NATIONAL CIVIL POLICE

1) ALTHOUGH A PROVISIONAL NARCOTIC SERVICE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED WITH FORTY-TWO MEN ASSIGNED EXCLUSIVELY TO NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT, THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR FORMALLY TO ESTABLISH THE ORGANIZATION WITH REGULATIONS AND FUNDING WITHIN THE NATIONAL CIVIL POLICE, HAS DELAYED THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NARCOTICS SERVICE. HENCE THE RESULTS TO DATE HAVE BEEN  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 04012 01 OF 02 021735Z

RATHER POOR.

2) THE NEW MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT AND POLICE IS PRESENTLY STUDYING A PROPOSED NEW NARCOTICS LAW, THE REGULATIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE NARCOTICS SERVICE, AND REGULATIONS FOR DISBURSING FUNDS FOR NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT.

B. CUSTOMS PROJECT AGREEMENT

1) THE CUSTOMS PROJECT FOR UPGRADING CUSTOMS OPERATIONS IN ECUADOR WITH THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF INTERDICTING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING WAS SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS JUNE 28. PRESENTLY WE ARE AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF THE CUSTOMS ADVISOR TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT.

C. COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND THE ECUADOREAN POLICE

1) THE COOPERATION BETWEEN U.S. AND GOE ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IS IMPROVING AND CLOSER LIAISON IS BEING ACHIEVED IN QUITO. THE PROBLEM AREA IN THIS RESPECT IS GUAYAQUIL.

D. U.S. ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

1) WITH THE ACTIVATION OF DEA IN ECUADOR THE OPERATIONS OF U.S. ENFORCEMENT IN COUNTRY ARE BEING MORE CLOSELY COORDINATED AND EXPANDED OPERATIONS ARE BEING PLANNED.

2) DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY SIXTY-EIGHT POUNDS OF COCAINE, WHICH ORIGINATED IN GUAYAQUIL, WERE SEIZED IN THREE SEPARATE INVESTIGATIONS ON THE EAST COAST OF THE U.S. THE INVESTIGATIONS RESULTED FROM INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY DEA IN QUITO AND IN THE U.S. THIS SEIZURE IS SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT ILLUSTRATES THE QUANTITY OF COCAINE THAT ECUADOREAN TRAFFICKERS ARE CAPABLE OF REGULARLY SENDING TO THE U.S.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 04012 01 OF 02 021735Z

3) NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE SUB-COMMITTEE: THIS GROUP, COMPOSED OF VARIOUS INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES OF THE EMBASSY, HAS BEEN BUSY FOR SEVERAL WEEKS COMPILING CENTRALIZED WORKING FILES OF POOLED INFORMATION. THE PURPOSE OF CENTRAL FILES IS TO COME UP WITH COORDINATED INFORMATION TO BE USED FOR TARGETING MAJOR TRAFFICKERS, MOSTLY IN GUAYAQUIL.

E. ARRESTS AND SEIZURES IN ECUADOR

1) THE NATIONAL CIVIL POLICE ARRESTED TWENTY-TWO TRAFFICKERS, NINETEEN PERSONS FOR POSSESSION AND FIFTY USERS OF NARCOTICS IN THE COURSE OF FORTY EIGHT INVESTIGATIONS. TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY COCA PLANTS AND A LABORATORY FOR PRODUCING COCAINE PASTE WERE DESTROYED WHEN A PLANTATION OF COCA WAS DISCOVERED. EIGHT POINT FIVE KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE WERE SEIZED ALONG WITH AN UNDETERMINED WEIGHT OF COCAINE IN INDIVIDUAL ENVELOPES. TWO KILOGRAMS OF MARIHUANA AND TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY ONE MARIHUANA CIGARETTES WERE SEIZED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE INVESTIGATIONS AND ARRESTS.

II. OVERALL PROGRESS

WHILE SOME PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO THE US, IT DOES NOT HAVE THE THRUST THAT IS PROBABLY NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS IN THIS AREA IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THE REASONS FOR THIS SITUATION ARE DESCRIBED BELOW:

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 04012 02 OF 02 021658Z

40

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 SS-15 L-03 HEW-08 DODE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02

SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 RSR-01

/136 W

----- 121687

P R 021501Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8198

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

DEA HQTS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 QUITO 4012

III. MAJOR PROBLEMS AND TRENDS (REF STATE 142821)

A. THE HOST GOVERNMENT, THE NEWS MEDIA AND THE MORE EDUCATED CITIZENS CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN NARCOTICS CONTROL. THIS INTEREST IS GENERAL AND LACKS DIRECTION AND COORDINATION. IT HAS NOT FOCUSED ON PROBLEM AREAS SUCH AS DEFICIENT POLICE AND CUSTOMS OPERATIONS.

B. THERE APPEARS TO BE AN INCREASE IN LOCAL TRAFFICKING IN NARCOTICS.

C. CUSTOMS AND OTHER LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAVE NOT SHOWN ANY INCREASED CAPABILITIES AS YET.

D. SECRETARIAL HELP FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND CUSTOMS NARCOTICS ADVISORS HAS NOT AS YET BEEN PROVIDED ALTHOUGH THE EXISTING WORKLOAD IS TAXING PRESENT AVAILABLE HELP AND WILL INCREASE FURTHER WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE CUSTOMS ADVISOR.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 04012 02 OF 02 021658Z

E. DEA

1) PRIOR TO THE CREATION OF DEA THERE WERE TWO BNDD AGENTS AND ONE CUSTOMS AGENT IN ECUADOR. CUSTOMS WAS TEMPORARILY ASSISTED BY A TDY SPECIAL AGENT WHO HAS SINCE RETURNED TO THE U.S.

2) DEA NOW CONSISTS OF ONLY TWO AGENTS ASSIGNED IN QUITO. IN LATE JUNE THE EMBASSY REQUESTED IN QUITO'S 3300 AND 3600 THAT DEA STRENGTH BE INCREASED TO FOUR MEN, TWO OF WHOM WOULD COVER GUAYAQUIL WHICH RECEIVES ONLY NOMINAL ATTENTION AT THIS TIME. IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT ECUADOR HAVE TWO ADDITIONAL SEASONED AGENTS TO COVER GUAYAQUIL WHICH IS A MAJOR NARCOTICS TARGET AREA IN ECUADOR.

F. POLICE

1) THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS IN POLICE PERFORMANCE IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE IN THE CASE OF THE COCAINE SEIZURE IN THE US REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH D-2 ABOVE THE ECUADOREAN NATIONAL POLICE AUTHORITIES QUICKLY LEARNED THAT THE COCAINE CAME FROM GUAYAQUIL TRAFFICKERS AND PROCEEDED TO ARREST THEM PREMATURELY IN GUAYAQUIL. TO DATE, THEY HAVE FAILED TO ADVISE DEA OF ANY PROGRESS IN THE CASE OR WHY THEY TOOK SUSPECTS INTO CUSTODY. THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL AS THE

NARCOTICS SECTION OF INTERPOL IN GUAYAQUIL APPEARS TO OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY FROM QUITO AND RARELY ADVISES QUITO OF THEIR ACTIVITIES, EVEN THOUGH THE GUAYAQUIL OFFICERS ARE FORMALLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE QUITO AUTHORITIES.

2) THE PLICE DO NOT SEEM INCLINED TO INVEST TOO MUCH EFFORT IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. FOR EXAMPLE THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT IN GUAYAQUIL DIVIDES HIS TIME BETWEEN TWO POSITIONS IN GUAYAQUIL: NARCOTICS AND SECURITY POLICE. IN REALITY WE ESTIMATE THAT HE SPENDS ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF HIS TIME IN THE SECURITY POLICE, RESPONSIBLE ONLY TO THE GOVERNOR OF GUAYAQUIL. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 04012 02 OF 02 021658Z

FURTHERMORE, THE AUTHORITIES APPEAR TO CONCENTRATE ONLY ON LOCAL PROBLEMS RATHER THAN INTERNATIONAL ONES. THIS RESULTS IN TOKEN ARRESTS. HOPEFULLY, THE U.S. EFFORT WILL EVENTUALLY CORRECT THIS.

3) ON THE BASIS OF DEA OBSERVATION, WE KNOW THAT THE ECUADOREAN POLICE TAKE A CARELESS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE HANDLING OF NARCOTICS SEIZED IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES. THIS OF COURSE CREATES DIFFICULT LEGAL PROBLEMS AND THEREBY ASSISTS CRIMINALS. IT ALSO LEADS TO THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE SEIZED NARCOTICS FROM TIME TO TIME AND, WE SUSPECT, ITS SALE AND THUS TO THE CORRUPTION OF THE POLICE.

4) FINALLY, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT BY THE USG, FEW OF THEM HAVE IN FACT BEEN RETURNED TO NARCOTICS DUTY. THIS, OF COURSE, REDUCES THE POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVED PERFORMANCE. CHAPLIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973QUITO04012  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS CHAPLIN  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** QUITO JOINT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730862/aaaabtlf.tel  
**Line Count:** 263  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <08 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MONTHLY NARCOTICS REPORT: ECUADOR, JULY 1973 I. GENERAL  
**TAGS:** SNAR, EC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005